



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225-0007

July 30, 2012

Delta Science Conference 2012
Brown-Nichols Award Selection Committee
Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Wim Kimmerer

Dear Selection Committee Members,

I have been involved in research or management activities in the San Francisco Estuary since I was an undergraduate at UC Davis in the early 1990s. During this time I have been very fortunate to have worked with many amazing scientists and individuals. Dr. Wim Kimmerer is on the top of that list. Dr Kimmerer: (1) is one of the most productive and effective researchers ever in the San Francisco Estuary, (2) has been active and effective in advising management strategies and policy, (3) has mentored numerous graduate students as well as agency staff and colleagues, (4) is a highly effective and sought after collaborator, and (5) is just an all-around great individual who I admire and respect.

Dr. Kimmerer's research accomplishments are truly extraordinary and are well known. I couldn't say exactly how many publications he has because there are so many, and I'm not even sure he knows the total as he only lists papers published over the last six years on his website. Where Dr. Kimmerer excels and stands head and shoulders above all else is in the breadth of subjects he has tackled and the direct relevance of his research to management and policy issues. Dr. Kimmerer has published on topics ranging from hydrodynamics modeling and particle transport to broad scale conservation strategies, and literally everything in-between. His research has directly informed management and policy issues. Perhaps the most well-known being those for outflow standards and objectives for the San Francisco Estuary.

Despite his considerable research success, Dr. Kimmerer is the antithesis of the stereotypical ivory tower academic researcher. This is demonstrated by his active involvement in advising management and policy. Dr. Kimmerer eagerly and effectively communicates complex scientific issues to managers and policy makers. Examples of his service include: Science Advisor to the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project, Advisory panel on the California Water Resources Control Board hearing on flow standards, Co-Chair of the CALFED Science Board, Advisor to the CALFED Lead Scientist on the Environmental Water Account and other issues concerning human impacts on fish populations, Review panel for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2008 Biological Opinion on delta smelt, Advisory committee for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, Delta Native Fishes Recovery Team, Scientific advisory panel for the Blue Ribbon Task Force for a Vision for the California Delta, and the list goes on.

Dr. Kimmerer is an outstanding mentor. He has supervised the work of numerous graduate students who have made substantial contributions to the knowledge of the San Francisco Estuary and ecology in general. Being in tune with science and policy issues in the region, Dr. Kimmerer is highly successful at preparing students to work effectively for resource agencies involved in the management of the San Francisco Estuary. Although he probably doesn't know it, Dr. Kimmerer also serves as a mentor and role model for many agency scientists. He does so through example with genuine and enthusiastic interest in learning how the San Francisco Estuary functions. Regardless of their grade, skill level, or affiliation, he always engages individuals with a warm smile, a firm hand shake and a genuine appreciation for what they have to offer.

All of the tangible qualifications that make Dr. Kimmerer a worthy recipient of the Brown-Nichols Award are well known to many. Being an effective researcher, mentor, and communicator have made him a highly sought after collaborator. It is unquestionable that there are many highly respected individuals working in the San Francisco Estuary. What typically makes these individuals special is their expertise on a particular species, topic or region of the system. Dr. Kimmerer stands apart from everyone else in his amazingly broad level of expertise across all subjects throughout the system. I can affirmatively state that there is no one who knows more about the entire San Francisco Estuary and its watershed than Dr. Wim Kimmerer.

I was fortunate to work with Dr. Randy Brown early in my career at the CA Department of Water Resources. He was truly an amazing individual and role model. Dr. Brown and Dr. Kimmerer often worked together, sharing a passion for learning and that management and policy decisions should be guided by science. Together, in an effort to extend their similar interests, they founded the California Estuarine Research Society (CAERS), an affiliate of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Society. It was because of their involvement that I volunteered to be the founding Secretary/Treasurer of CAERS. I vividly remember Dr. Kimmerer standing before the delegates at the second annual CAERS meeting at the Bodega Marine Lab in 2004 dedicating the conference to his late colleague and friend, Dr. Brown. It was a heartfelt moment that deeply touched everyone. I can only imagine the emotion that Dr. Kimmerer would feel by earning this prestigious award that carries the name of his dear colleague and friend. I whole-heartedly support the nomination of Dr. Kimmerer for the Brown-Nichols Award. I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of Dr. Brown and the career of Dr. Kimmerer.

Sincerely,

Fred Feyrer
Fish Biologist
Bay-Delta Office, US Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-414-2416 (office)
916-943-6945 (mobile)
ffeyrer@usbr.gov